



The 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment protects both  
the mother and her unborn child

# Mission Statement

- ▶ Doctors for Life Ireland is an organisation for doctors and health care professionals who wish to uphold the practice of medicine as a service to human life at all stages.
- ▶ It aims to provide evidence-based and factual information to doctors and others who are concerned about the ethical questions relating to patient care and practitioner responsibility at all stages of life. It is not affiliated to, or part of, any other organisation.

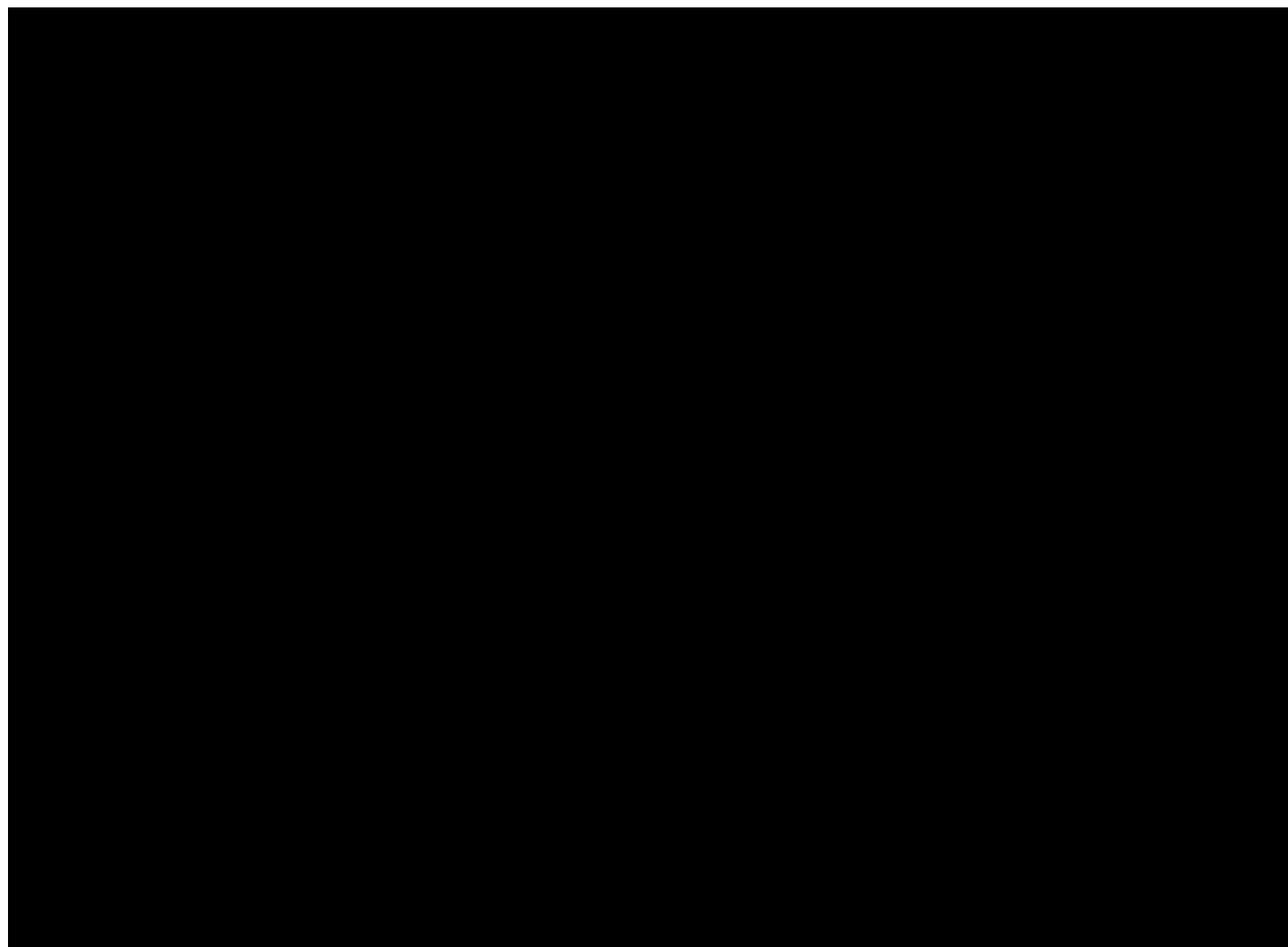


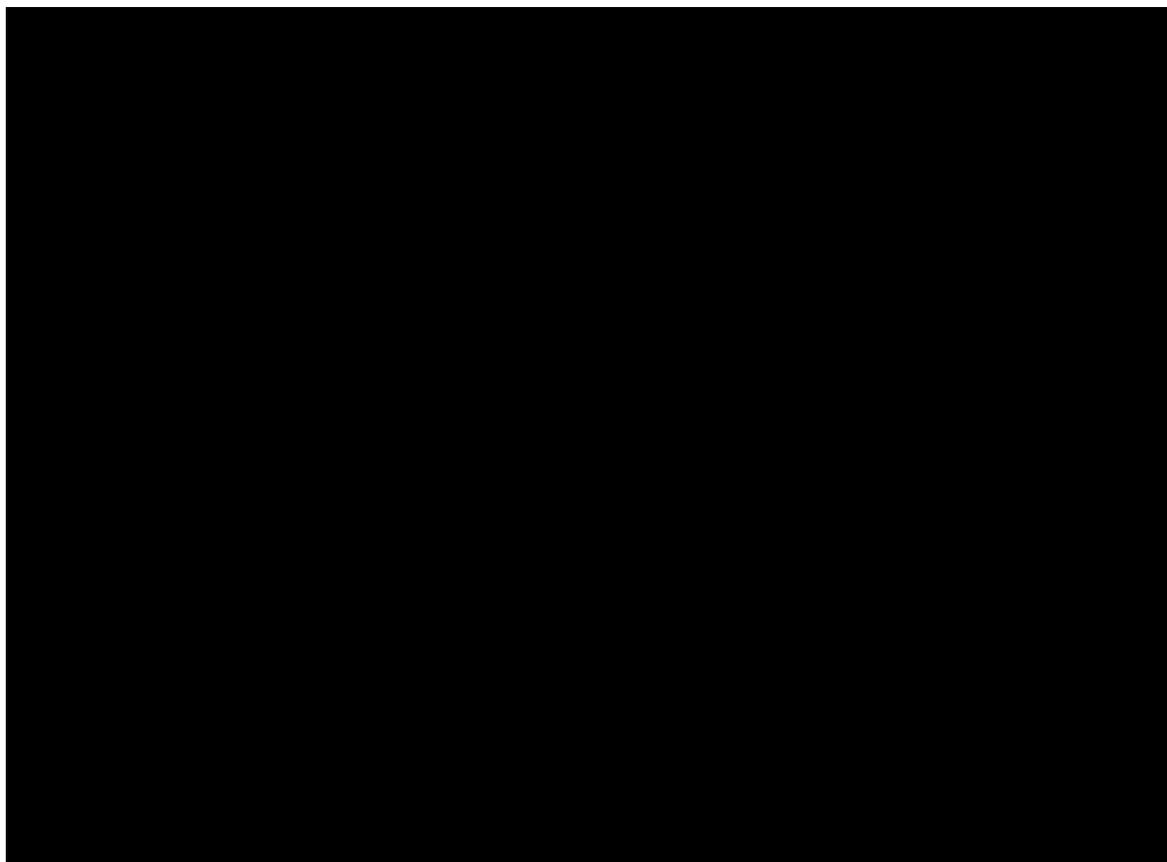
- ▶ The first principle of medical practice, is :

above all to do no harm  
*(primum non nocere)*

- ▶ In pregnancy, Irish medicine has a long held tradition of treating both patients: the expectant mother and her developing child.







# Treatment of seriously ill children diagnosed in the womb



- ▶ Should be cared for the same as other patients who are terminally ill
  - nurtured
  - made comfortable
  - allowed to experience the warmth and love of others before they die
- ▶ The Peri-natal Palliative Care Approach.

# Peri-natal palliative care

- ▶ Peri-natal palliative care, for children with life limiting conditions, is an **active and total approach to care**, from the point of diagnosis or recognition, throughout the child's life, death and beyond.
- ▶ It embraces the **physical emotional, social and spiritual** elements and focuses on the enhancement of the quality of life for the neonatal infant and support for their family.
- ▶ It includes the **management of distressing symptoms and care through death and bereavement**"



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cf204Ajn7TY>